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1	2	3
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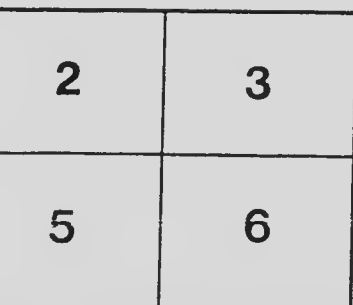
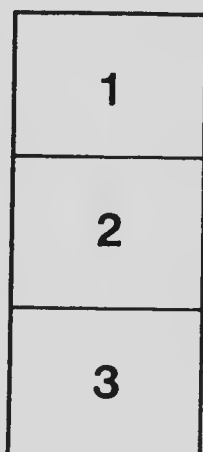
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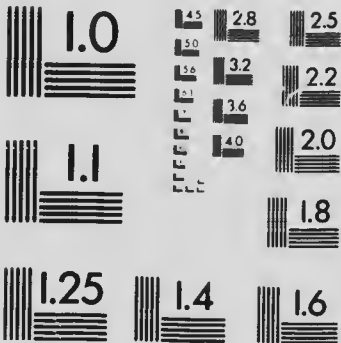
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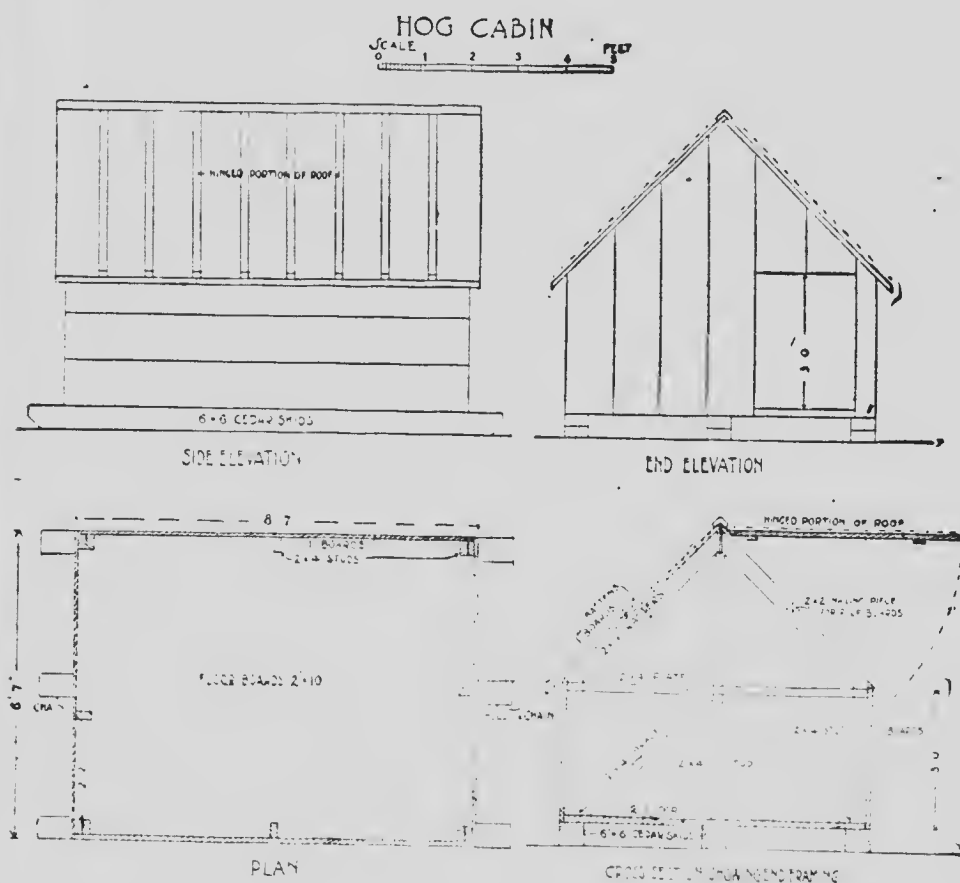
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A Cheap, Portable Hog Cabin

—BY—

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DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS

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EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 97

(February, 1916.)

The pig, more than any other class of breeding stock, benefits by fresh air and exercise. The cheapest and simplest way of obtaining these requisites is to provide outdoor life for the sow and boar practically the year round. To what extent, then, should they be sheltered?

The Cheap Hog Cabin.—It has been amply proven by experiment that a single board cabin such as illustrated and described, and such as may be easily constructed by anyone fairly familiar with tools, affords sufficient shelter for breeding stock even in our more northern districts. In these small buildings, provided they are well supplied with bedding and in a sheltered location, stock boars and brood sows may be housed the year round with the exception, in the case of the latter, of that time spent indoors in the farrowing pen, shortly previous to and following the arrival of the litter.

The Cheap Cabin versus the Expensive Permanent Piggery.—The farmer engaged in the extensive raising of hogs, will require a permanent building for farrowing sows and fattening pigs during the cold months. See circular—*The Farmer's Piggery*. Such a building need not be expensive, however, and should be built with a capacity only sufficient for the above requirements. The man raising only a few litters each year, may, in many cases, avoid this expense and, if he can arrange for accommodation in other buildings at the time mentioned, depend mainly on the portable cabin as a shelter for his pigs. Compared with the latter, the permanent building, is, relatively, very costly, both in the initial outlay and in the yearly charges, interest on investment, upkeep, depreciation, etc. Entirely aside from this aspect, the health of breeding stock is vastly improved by outdoor life with the consequent lessening of susceptibility to disease. These benefits far more than offset the fact that outdoor wintering entails an increase in cost of feeding of 20 per cent. Realizing, then, the value of fresh air, dry quarters and exercise, it will be seen that in the permanent building such features are difficult to insure. In such a structure, outdoor conditions can be approximated only by efficient ventilation. Unless the temperature of the building is sufficiently raised by the nature or number of the occupants, brisk air circulation is impossible. The result is shown by the fact that many piggeries are damp, with the air more or less impure and clammy. The opening of doors and windows usually causes draughts and too rapid changes of temperature. Damp quarters, impure damp air and draughts are fertile causes of rheumatism, crippling and general unthriftiness. Lack of exercise also predisposes to the above diseases or to an over fat flabby constipated condition, so undesirable in the in-pig sow, and the cause of small or weak poorly developed litters. A combination of all constitutes a serious menace to the successful raising of swine. In a well constructed, well ventilated building, however, in which are housed considerable numbers of feeders, change of air is frequent. Further, with such a class of stock, unlimited exercise is not advisable.

With the outdoor cabin, however, fresh dry air is available, and with a yard adjoining, exercise is not only possible but may be actually forced on the animal. With plenty of dry bedding, and allowing four or five sows to each house, the rigors of northern winters apparently have not the slightest ill effect. Sows, so housed, are vigorous, healthy and active. Little difficulty is met with in breeding or at farrowing time, (See Circular "The Feeding of Swine") and with suitable feeds, large, vigorous, thrifty litters may be expected. With the boar similar improvement in health will be shown with corresponding desirable re-

sults in the litters sired by him.

Many farmers winter their sows outdoors, allowing them access to a straw-stack in which they may burrow. While good results are usually obtained, there is a tendency that the sow may contract a severe chill with further complications, due to her becoming overheated while covered with straw, and coming out suddenly into the cold winter mornings. Thus, though it may be colder, the even temperature afforded by the single-board cabin, is preferable.

GENERAL RULES FOR OUTDOOR HOUSING.

1. Supply plenty of bedding at all times.
2. Don't move the brood sow from inside to outside conditions abruptly, during cold weather. Above all things don't breed her immediately after such a change.
3. Remove the pregnant sow from winter quarters to the farrowing pen a week or ten days before she is due to litter.
4. Supply the boar with a sheltered location in winter and with shade during the heat of summer.
5. Accidents to the pigs are frequent during winter, due to icy yards. Keep ice away from about troughs, by chopping, and spread ashes, sand, or a little salt about the runs.

BRIEF SPECIFICATION OF HOG CABIN

BASE

The structure rests upon three skids or pieces of 6"x6" cedar. For this purpose, dressed cedar poles may be used to advantage.

WALLS.

The walls consist of 12 2"x4" studs, covered outside with 1" boarding. At the top of the stud is a 2"x4" plate. The studs are braced by 2"x4" braces placed diagonally between them, as shown.

FLOORS

The flooring consists of 2" plank laid across the 6"x6" skids.

ROOF

The roof is built with 2 2"x4" rafters at each end of the cabin. A 2"x2" or 2"x4" purlin may be used if necessary to carry the 1" roof boards which may be battened at the joints, or the boards may be laid four or five inches apart and the space covered with a second row of boards, on top, thus making battens unnecessary and providing a stronger more weather proof roof.

DOOR

The door opening is 2' 2" wide and 3' 0" high.

DIMENSIONS

The whole structure is 6' 7" by 8' 7" with a 3' 0" post.

LUMBER LIST

The following lumber list is suggested where all material was pur-

chased. In many cases much of the lumber, as for example the skids or runners, might be obtained on the farm.

Skids, 3 pcs. 10'x6"x6".....	90 ft. B.M.
Plate, 2"x4" 30 lin. feet	20 " "
Studs, 13 pcs. 3'x2"x4".....	26 " "
Ratters, 4 pcs. 4½'x2"x4".....	12 " "
Braces, 2 pcs. 4'x2"x4".....	5 " "
Roof Boarding (1") 49½ sq. ft.....	49½ " "
Wall Boarding (1") 110 sq. feet	110 " "
Floor, 2" plank 56 sq. ft.....	112 " "
Nailing Boards for roof boarding, 2 pcs. 8' 3" by 2" 2".....	5½ " "
Battens, 16 pcs. 5½'x2"x1".....	16 " "
Battens for hinged part of roof, 2 pcs. 3'x1"x3".....	1½ " "
Nails, Paint, etc.	

Two coats of good paint would add considerably to the life of the structure.

For a building so simply constructed as the above, no further description is necessary. Changes in detail may be made by the builder, if necessary, provided the size is not less than that specified. Another type known as the "A" shaped cabin is frequently built, in which the roof extends from the floor in the shape of an inverted V. Experience has shown, however, that this type is unsatisfactory in that the animals rub and scratch themselves against the inside of the roof, soon weakening the connection between the latter and the floor, causing the sides to burst out.

